

New York State Association of Black and Puerto-Rican Legislators

Supporting the Human Services Workforce Panelist Information Sheet

Co-Sponsored by

Senate Majority Leader and Temporary
President,
Andrea Stewart-Cousins

New York State Assemblymember
Yuh-Line Niou,
65th Assembly District

New York State Assemblymember Yuh-Line Niou
Moderating

Carlyn Cowen

Chief Policy and Public Affairs Officer
Chinese-American Planning Council



Carlyn Cowen is an advocate, activist, and Filipina-American who believes in the power of transformative systemic change to build social, racial, and economic justice. She is currently the Chief Policy and Public Affairs Officer of the Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC), the nation's largest Asian-American social services organization, where she is responsible for public policy, advocacy, government affairs, and community engagement. Previously, Carlyn served as a Senior Policy Analyst at FPWA, an economic equity nonprofit, and at the New York City Mayor's Office of Contract Services. She has managed consulting projects for the United Nations Development Programme, Oxfam International, and Bloomberg Philanthropies. Carlyn completed her Master's in Economic and Political Development at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA).

Ron Duetsch

Executive Director
Fiscal Policy Institute



Ron Duetsch is the Executive Director of the Fiscal Policy Institute. A position he has held since 2014. The Fiscal Policy Institute (FPI) is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit research and education organization committed to improving public policies and private practices to better the economic and social conditions of all New Yorkers. Founded in 1991, FPI works to create a strong economy in which prosperity is broadly shared. Under Ron's leadership the organization has played a major role in critical statewide policy debates including \$15 minimum wage, millionaires' tax, economic development transparency, refugee resettlement and many more,

Ron has been a tireless advocate for working families for over 25 years in Albany. Before joining FPI, Ron served for 8 years as the Director of FPI's sister 501(c)(4) organization, New Yorkers for Fiscal Fairness. Prior to that he led the Statewide Emergency Network for Social and Economic Security (a statewide anti-poverty advocacy organization) for 13 years. Deutsch is a graduate of the State University of New York at Albany.

In his spare time Ron is one of the founding board members and leaders of the Giving Circle, an all-volunteer non-profit (www.thegivingcircle.org) that works to help improve the lives of families in the Capital District, nationally and internationally.

Marisa Saunders

Director of Community Engagement and Justice Strategies Associate
Center for Community Alternatives (CCA)



Marissa Saunders is originally from Berkeley, Ca where she completed a Diversity Leadership Training from the National Equity Project and is a founding member of the United in Action community organization that works towards educational equity and social justice for students of color. In 2010, she moved to Syracuse, NY where she developed and facilitated a woman's empowerment and transitional support program and curriculum for incarcerated women & formerly incarcerated individuals in Onondaga County. She is currently the Director of Community Engagement and Justice Strategies Associate with Center for Community Alternatives (CCA) for their Syracuse, Rochester and Brooklyn offices.

Ms. Saunders's qualifications and skills have been acquired from years of organizing community/school wide events, political campaigns and educational curriculum and programming that focused on providing resources and education for community members, families and young people at risk. She has coordinated, facilitated and developed workshops on diversity, racism and provided parent education and trainings. In addition, she has developed after school tutorial programs as well as girl empowerment programs. She has also published a book of poetry, sits on local and regional Juvenile Justice Committees and task forces, is on the board of the CNY Chapter of the New York Civil Liberties Union and most recently awarded the MLK Unsung Hero Award for the work she does in the community.